

**VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD[811]**

**Notice of Intended Action**

**Proposing rule making related to disclosure of patient records  
and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Board of Veterinary Medicine hereby proposes to amend Chapter 12, “Standards of Practice,” Iowa Administrative Code.

*Legal Authority for Rule Making*

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 169.5.

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 169.5.

*Purpose and Summary*

The proposed amendment allows veterinarians to disclose patient records when the law authorizes or requires them to disclose such information.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

*Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

*Waivers*

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Board for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

*Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Board no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 22, 2020. Comments should be directed to:

Maury Noonan  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Wallace State Office Building  
502 East 9th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Phone: 515.281.7808  
Email: [maury.noonan@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:maury.noonan@iowaagriculture.gov)

*Public Hearing*

No public hearing is scheduled at this time. As provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b,” an oral presentation regarding this rule making may be demanded by 25 interested persons, a governmental subdivision, the Administrative Rules Review Committee, an agency, or an association having 25 or more members.

*Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making action is proposed:

Amend subrule 12.4(2), introductory paragraph, as follows:

**12.4(2) Patient records.** Veterinary medical records are an integral part of veterinary care. Medical records are the property of the veterinary practice. Each licensed veterinarian shall maintain for at least five years an easily retrievable record for each patient that receives veterinary services. The record must be available for inspection by the client during normal business hours. The information within veterinary medical records is privileged and confidential and shall not be released except by court order, a public health emergency, ~~or~~ consent of the client, or as otherwise authorized by law. The licensed veterinarian in charge shall provide a copy of the complete record to the client not later than two business days after the licensed veterinarian or practice receives from the client a request for the record. A licensed veterinarian or veterinary practice may have an additional three business days to provide a copy of nondigital diagnostic images. The licensed veterinarian may charge reasonable and customary fees for the copying of records.